

Remarks

Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 19, and 21 - 38 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 17 – 23 have been cancelled. Claims 36 – 38 were included in the previous amendment as new claims, such was not acknowledged by the Examiner whereby these claims have present again in this amendment as new.

Claims 1 – 4, 15, 17 – 21, and 23 stand rejected as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. Claim 1 has been amended, and claims 17 - 21 and 23 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the inadvertently omitted the step of “protecting the UV-cure adhesive from UV light during the adjusting said position of each optical fiber”, which had been indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, i.e., original claim 8. This has been pointed out by the Examiner in the present office action at section paragraph no. 12. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s assistance in clarifying this issue. It will be noted that the “means for” language has been omitted as this is a method claim. Matsumoto et al. is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of “protecting the UV-cure adhesive from UV light during the adjusting said position of each optical fiber”, and such has been acknowledged by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Matsumoto et al. Dependent claims 2 – 4, and 15 are also not anticipated by Matsumoto et al., as they depend from claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 – 4, and 15 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner’s presumption regarding joint inventors is correct.

Claims 14 and 22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yui et al. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claim 14 should be allowable as depending from what should now be an allowable independent claim. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claim 14 are respectfully requested.

Claim 16 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Ohtsuka et al. Claim 16 should be allowable as depending from what should now be an

allowable independent claim. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

The indication that claims 24 – 35 are allowed is hereby recognized and appreciated.

Reconfirmation that original claim 8 contained allowable subject matter is hereby recognized and appreciated. Claim 1 has been amended in response to this indication.

The indication that claims 5 – 7, and 9 - 13 contain allowable subject matter is hereby recognized and appreciated.

New claims 36 - 38 have been added. Again, claims 36 – 38 were included in the previous amendment as new claims, such was not acknowledged by the Examiner whereby these claims have present again in this amendment as new. Claims 36 – 38 depend from allowed claims.

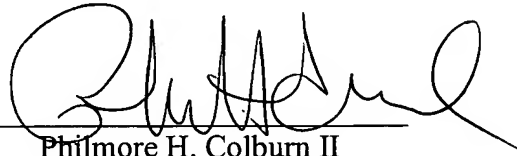
It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Final Office Action and that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance, whereby it is respectfully requested that claims 1 - 7, 9 -16, and 24 - 38 be passed to issue.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise,
please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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